



Building Today For A Strong Tomorrow

November 2011

Dear Friends,

It's been a tough year. Families continue to struggle through what seems to be a never-ending sour economy. Our neighbors worry about a spouse's job loss or their own. Fortunately there is a bright spot for many in Highland Park and Highwood, the five agencies that comprise The Community Family Center (CFC). These families don't have to worry that their children will be well cared for while they're working or searching for new employment if they're at nursery school or daycare at Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care; Tri-Con Child Care Center or one of the homes of the Highland Park-Highwood Home Care Association. They know they have somewhere to turn for advice and parenting classes, nutrition & exercise and a few minutes of adult conversation at Family Network. And just when they think there's nowhere to turn in a crisis there's the expertise and experience of a counselor at Family Service: Prevention, Education & Counseling.

These agencies continue providing the highest quality services that they have for over 200 combined years. Unfortunately, they've had a tough year too. They continue to be stuck in antiquated, aging, overcrowded facilities. They spend time mopping up when it rains, patching floors to make them safe. And that's right here in Highland Park.

Throughout this tough year CFC has continued to raise both private and public funds to develop a model facility that will offer a centralized location for these vital life resources to the 2,500 people who pass through our doors every year. Our \$10.5 million construction budget will provide the high quality space that our community needs. And by centralizing these agencies we will be able to expand them and create synergies in service delivery and cost savings.

As poverty spreads from urban to suburban areas, we are not immune. Are you aware that 22% of our elementary school students are low-income and qualify for free and reduced lunch? The economic health and vibrancy of our community depend upon the availability of quality services for all of our children and families, our future. Our heart and soul.

Now is the time to complete our fundraising and get construction underway.

Please help us help our neighbors and make your generous contribution today.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Herbert S. Wander".

Herbert S. Wander